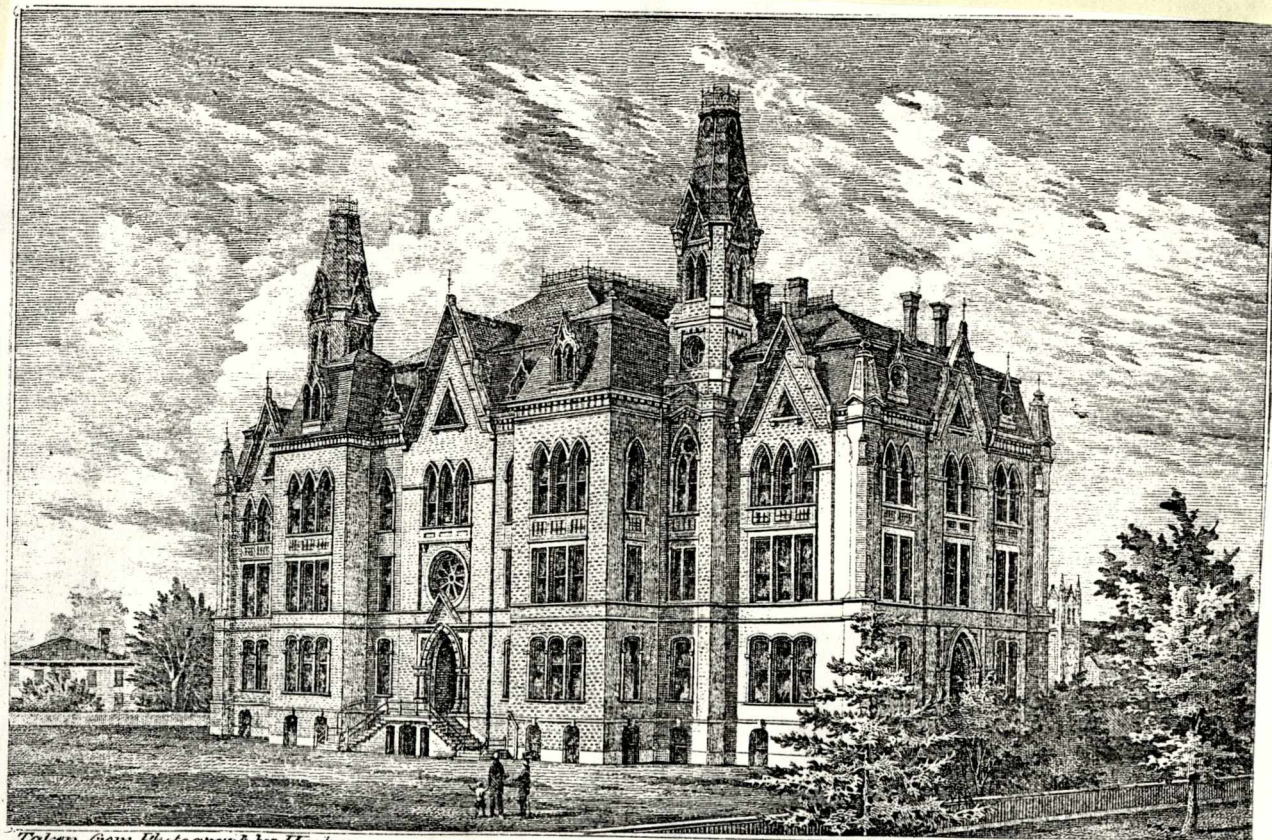


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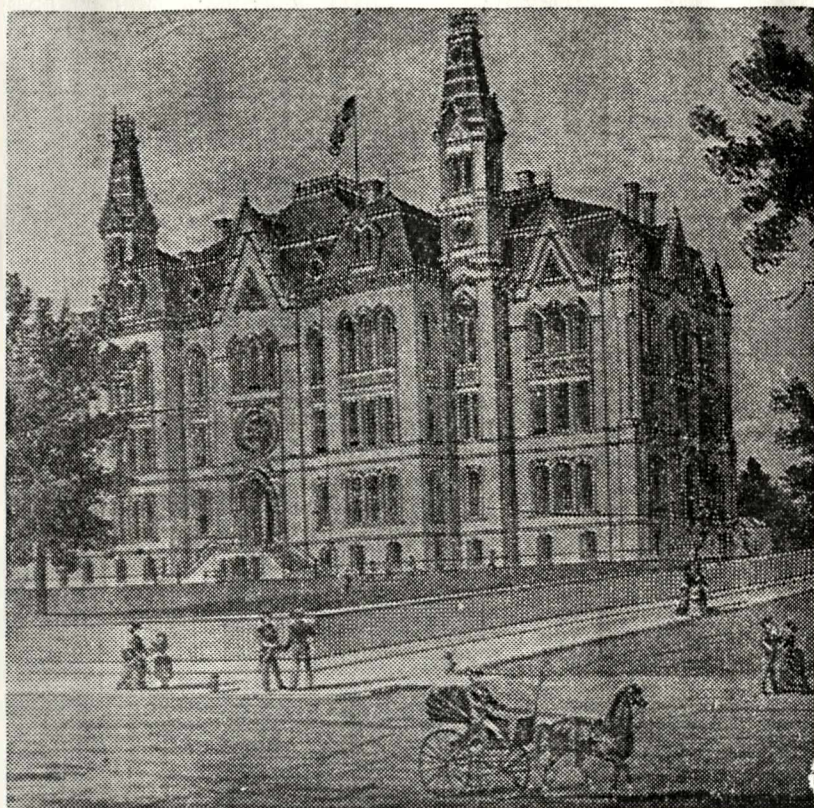
Taken from Photograph by Husher.

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL
TERRE HAUTE INDIANA.

Bruden & Burford lith. Indianapolis.

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INDIANA STATE NORMAL SCHOOL—This is the first building of the original school. It was opened January 8, 1870.

College history begins in 1855

This is the first in a series of features about the history of Indiana State College. The Editor

By BEN WATTERS

In 1855 a proposal was brought before the Indiana legislature to initiate a State Normal School. Dr. Edmund T. Spotswood's idea was referred to a committee and subsequently died for lack of support.

Again in 1865 the founding of a Normal School was mentioned. This time Baskin E. Rhoads, a Vermillion County representative, sponsored the bill. Unlike the attempts of Dr. Spotswood, the idea received favorable consideration.

GOVERNOR OLIVER P.

Morton called a special session of congress and Dec. 20, 1865 the referendum was made law.

While the bill called for a school, it did not provide a location. Legislators stipulated an allocation of \$79,999 for initial expenses and

asked that any community wishing Indiana State Normal School should appeal with a minimum of \$50,000.

At the second meeting of the board, a trio of representatives from Terre Haute—John M. Olcott, J. H. Barr, and William R. McKeen—made an offer of \$50,000 and real estate with an estimated value of \$25,000. The offer was accepted and Mr. Olcott was made treasurer of the board at the same time.

THE SEPTEMBER, 1866 gathering of the trustees resulted in the decision to begin construction of a \$100,000 building. In August of the following year the cornerstone of the building was laid during an elaborate ceremony.

Placed in the cornerstone was the petition of the 1500 Terre Haute citizens who wanted the State Normal School in their town, a history of Terre Haute, the laws of the school, and other articles and papers.

After many disappointments, plans were made to open the school Jan. 6, 1870. When the inauguration arrived there was still much work to be done. There were no maps, facilities for laboratories, and the grounds were in shambles. Only the first two floors of the multi-storied structure were available for use.

THE LIBRARY consisted entirely of a Bible and an unabridged dictionary.

"The inauguration ceremonies attendant upon the opening of the Normal School, having transpired yesterday and the Board having, as a body, attended upon them, the fact is now recorded for future reference and guidance that on this day, the 6th of January, 1870, the Indiana State Normal School was regularly opened for pupils . . ."

Thus, William O. Lynch in his "History of the Indiana State Teachers College" heralds the beginning of Indiana State College.

Community Affairs File

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

T.H. Ind. State Univ
TRIB-STAR 8-10-69
**Growth of State Normal
Recorded in State History**

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

An Act of the Indiana Legislature creating the State Normal School was approved December 20th, 1865. It declared "that the school shall be located at that place where the inhabitants shall make the largest donations for said school . . . not less than \$50,000 cash value . . . such place shall furnish reasonable facilities for the success of said school . . ."

Terre Haute surpassed all other points in competition with a cash appropriation of \$50,000 and a donation of the beautiful centrally located lot valued at \$25,000. The petition was signed by 1,500 persons.

J. A. Vrydagh was selected as the architect, and contracts were let to J. B. Hedden for brickwork, Wagner & McFarland for stone work, Captain Hook for wood work, Samuel T. Reese for finishing, Moore & Hagerty for roofing, W. J. Ball & Co. for iron, and R. Buckel for painting.

The cornerstone was laid August 13th, 1867, one of the biggest days in the history of Terre Haute. The entire square was a mass of people. The chief address of the day was delivered by Dr. Richard Edwards, President of Illinois State Normal School. Senator Oliver P. Morton was here and made one of his remarkable speeches.



Dorothy Clark

While the building was still burning, President Parsons decided to lose but one day of school. He secured Dowling Hall for an assembly room and the basements of the churches in the vicinity for classrooms. The Trustees of the Congregational Church promptly offered the use of their church basement. The third floor of the old Rose Polytechnic Institute (now Gerstmeyer High School) was offered for advanced classes.

In 1885 President William Wood Parsons led in the reconstruction of the Normal School institution. Terre Haute citizens raised \$50,000 for the new building, and the General Assembly appropriated \$100,000.

On June 8, 1888, just two short months after the State Normal School building burned to the ground, the seventeenth annual commencement was held in the high school assembly hall before a packed house. The largest graduating class

On June 8, 1888, just two short months after the State Normal School building burned to the ground, the seventeenth annual commencement was held in the high school assembly hall before a packed house. The largest graduating class

For many years, by agreement, the city high school was located there, but the growth of both schools was so great that it was thought better to have separate buildings.

It was not generally known that the new high school (now Wiley High School) covered more ground than the Normal Building, and that if its second floor and basement had been

ever, forty-four, were awarded their diplomas.

On April 21st, 1888, the contract for furnishing plans and superintending work of the new building (fondly remembered by so many as the old Administration Building) was let to Jenney & Otis, architects of Chicago, and work commenced immediately. Although the new building was not entirely completed, it was occupied at the beginning of the fall term in September, 1889, eighty years ago!

From its very beginning the college has been fortunate in having on its faculty a multitude of eminent men and women. They have written many of the textbooks used in the public schools, and have taken an active part in the building up of the Indiana school system as one of the best in the country.

Established originally as the Indiana State Normal School, its name was changed by the General Assembly in 1929 to that of Indiana State Teacher's College. Then in 1961 the name was changed to Indiana State College, and finally in 1965 to its present title of Indiana State University.

Community Affairs File

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Community Affairs File

T.H. INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HISTORY

Normal School Fire Loss Tribune-STAR 4/6/1969 Estimated at \$225,000

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

The most unfortunate single catastrophe that could have happened to Terre Haute at the time occurred the morning of April 9th, 1888, when the fine State Normal School building, an institution in which not only the people of Terre Haute but those from all parts of the state had taken just pride, was destroyed by fire. Nothing was left to tell the short but fearful story of ruin by fierce flames but the bare and blackened walls.

The alarm was turned in a few minutes before 9 a.m. from Box 15 at the corner of Seventh and Eagle streets. A second alarm sent in from Box 31 called out the entire fire department to the scene.

President W. W. Parsons was on the second floor in the northeast room when he learned of the fire by seeing police and firemen rush into the building. They told him the building was on fire on top.

Pres. Parsons went all over the building giving the alarm and in a short time, with the assistance of opice, the students and their professors were out of the building in good order.

At the time of the fire there approximately 800 pupils attending classes. In the Normal School proper there was an enrollment at the time of 625, with 175 enrolled in the Training School, making the 800 total.

The news that the Normal School was on fire caused the

greatest excitement and crowds rushed to the scene only to find that it was impossible to save the building.

When the fire was first noticed it was on top of the building and had apparently started in the attic among the rafters. It could have been extinguished, probably without much loss, had the firemen been able to get at the seat of the flames promptly. The hatchway to the attic was locked with a large hasp and staple, and the firemen, after trying in vain to open it, chopped through with an axe. Valuable time was lost and the flames spread so rapidly that it was not long before the firemen were forced back.

Chemical Engine Company and Hose Companies 4 and 5 kept up streams of water in the third story for half an hour until Chief Hunter ordered them out, fearing falling timbers. The firemen were actually driven down the stairway by the flames.

In a very few minutes a tongue of flames shot out of the hallway facing 6th St. This told the excited crowd that all hope of saving the building was lost. It was surprising how quickly the seemingly substantial and mammoth brick building burned for it went like tinder. Several explosions of chemicals at intervals plainly told that the laboratory on the third floor was burning.

Outside, the firemen turned several streams on the building, but they could not reach the flames. By 9:30 the entire building was a mass of flames, the interior walls and floors were falling. Black clouds of smoke, cinders and burning fragments were falling on all the surrounding buildings on Eagle St. and on 6th and even as far as 4th and a number of houses were on fire in several places, but fortunately the rain prevented other serious damage.

When the firemen realized the Normal Building was beyond hope they turned their attention to the smaller fires. Hose Companies 4 and 5 and the Chemical Company barely escaped from the building before the roof began falling. The "Fives" lost six sections of hose. The extension ladder was burned before it could be lowered and Frank Feddersen, nozzleman of the Chemical, had his arm broken by falling slate.

Most astonishing was the fact that there was not a cent of insurance carried on the building or upon any of its contents. The city and state jointly erected the building, the city donating the ground and \$50,000 and the two had quarreled over the question as to whose duty it was to insure it, until it was too late "to lock the barn door!"

Total loss was estimated at \$225,000. The building cost \$189,000, the library of 2,000 volumes was worth four or five thousand dollars.

It was ironic that Brokaw Bros.' delivery wagon was entering the side gate containing \$110 worth of wallpaper for the building when the driver saw the flames.

The origin of the fire was believed to have been a defective flue which caught the rafters on fire.

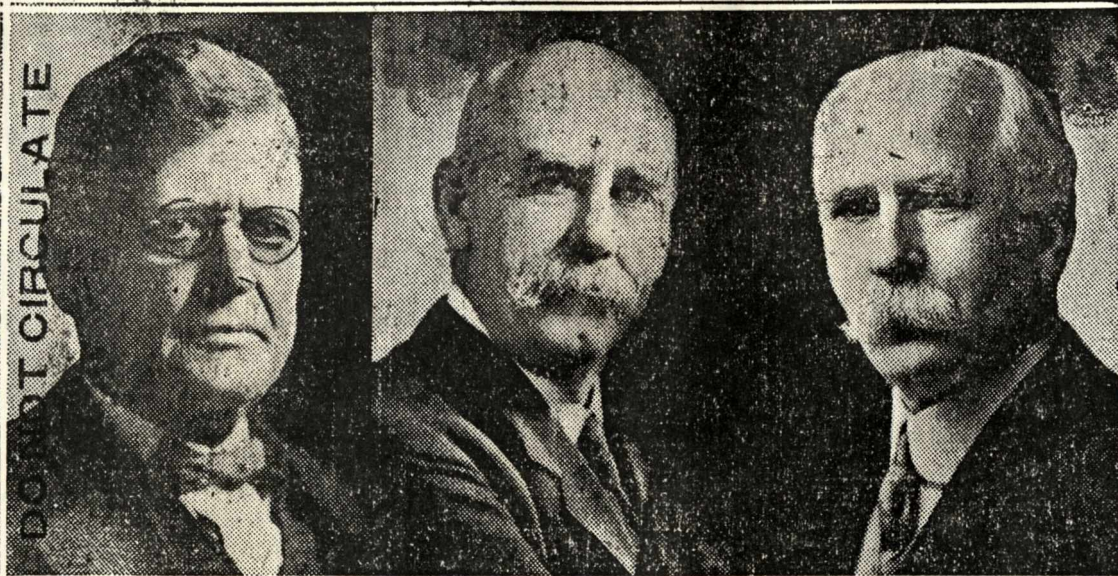


Dorothy Clark

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CHIMES SET, SCHOLARSHIP FUND, BOOK AND TORCH CUSTOM BEGUN IN MEMORY OF NORMAL OFFICERS

Ind News, June 4 '27



SANFORD M. KELTNER.

WILLIAM W. PARSONS.

HOWARD SANDISON.

In a spirit of gratitude and reverence toward those heroic servants of education, William Wood Parsons and Howard Sandison, the students, alumni and friends of the Indiana State Normal School of Terre Haute will take occasion Thursday to pay tribute to their memory in commencement week. Dr. Parsons was president of the school for thirty-six years, with Dr. Sandison, his friend and co-worker, serving for that period as vice-president.

As a result of a movement begun two years ago, \$25,000 was raised for a fund to be used in the perpetuation of the memory of these men. Thursday, to be known as Alumni day, will see the realization of the original plans, for in the name of these two benefactors a set of Deagan Tower chimes will be dedicated and a memorial scholarship fund made available to worthy young men and women in need of financial assistance to complete their courses of study.

Lighted Plaques in Hall.

Two bronze tablets will be unveiled, one bearing the bas-relief portraits of President Parsons and Vice-President Sandison, to commemorate the installation of the chimes, and the other in the form of a large open book, lighted by the torch of learning, to commemorate the creation of the scholarship fund. These two plaques will be hung in the hall of the administration building and lighted by reflectors.

The scholarship fund, to be known as the Parsons-Sandison Living Memorial Scholarship Fund, amounts to approximately \$10,000 at the present time. The term "living" is applicable because the fund carries with it provisions whereby each senior class may leave a gift of \$500 or more to be added to the original fund.

In connection with this annual presentation to the school a "Book and Torch" ceremony has been arranged, in which both students and alumni participate. On Founders day, January 6, the president of the alumni each year presents to the president of the senior class a charge to keep faith with the ideals and purposes of the founders of the institution. With this charge the student president receives a lighted bronze torch and a memorial book

containing tributes written by nationally known educators to President Parsons and Dr. Sandison.

1927 Class Gives \$1,000.

Alumni day the class president returns the book and torch, and at this time makes the formal presentation of the class gift to the scholarship fund. This year's graduating class, whose president is Herbert Lamb, of Terre Haute, will contribute \$1,000. Edgar Webb, of Indianapolis, is president of the alumni association.

In the opinion of Linnæus N. Hines, now president of the Normal School, this ceremony, beautiful in its symbolism, will become a tradition and inspiration for succeeding generations, and will keep green the memory of the great work of these men, to whom it is dedicated.

The living memorial tablet, cast in the shape of a book whose pages are kept open by a torch, bears the following inscription:

"Parsons-Sandison Living Memorial."

"This memorial is established in memory of the benefactors of this institution.

"The members of the faculty

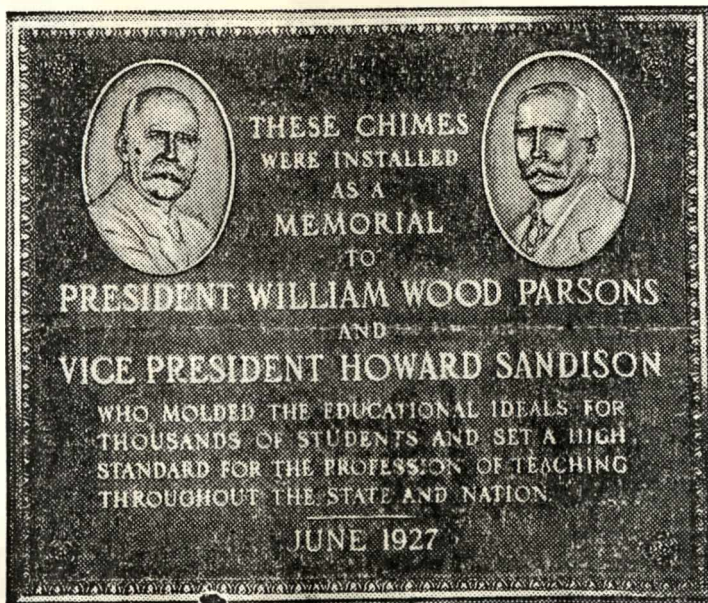
the teachers of Indiana and through these teachers ministered to mankind.

"The members of the alumni departed from this life, who in their labors in behalf of the children of our state and nation, loyally sustained the high ideals here held aloft.

"To commemorate these benefactors a memorial scholarship fund has been created by the alumni, faculty, students and friends of the Indiana State Normal School for the aid of worthy students who need financial assistance to help them to complete their course.

"This Living Memorial in loving tribute to the splendid achievements of our men and women whose exalted service has honored this college will continue to grow so long as gratitude remains in the hearts of men."

The chimes, which cost \$13,500, include twenty pipes and have the Westminster attachments to strike the hour, half hour, and quarter hour. Through a special electrical arrangement, each day at sunset the chimes will play "On the Banks of the Wabash," the favorite Hoosier song, written by Paul Dresser, a now deceased who so nobly served



CHIMES MEMORIAL TABLET

native of Terre Haute. The key-board is in the chapel hall. The dedicatory chimes program which will begin Thursday at 4 p. m. will be played by Murvin Leroy Jones, of Chicago. The numbers will include "America," "On the Banks of the Wabash," "Onward Christian Soldiers," "At Dawning," "In the Gloaming," "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," "Auld Lang Syne," "Lead Kindly Light," "Londonberry Air," "Long, Long Ago," "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken," "The Sunshine of Your Smile," "Abide With Me," "There's a Long, Long Trail," and "The Star Spangled Banner."

The chimes memorial tablet carries the following inscription beneath the portraits of President Parsons and Doctor Sandison: "These chimes were installed as a memorial to President William Wood Parsons and Vice-President Howard Sandison, who moulded the educational ideals for thousands of students and set a high standard for the profession of teaching throughout the state and country."

Members of the memorials committee through whose earnestness of purpose and co-operation the Parsons-Sandison memorials are made possible, includes President Hines, Edgar Webb of the alumni; V. R. Mullins, Terre Haute; Homer L. Cook, Indianapolis; Miss Blanche Merry, Indianapolis; Sampson G. Smith, Connersville; L. E. Kelly, Montpelier; Miss Carrie Browder, Indianapolis; Miss Lena Swope, Indianapolis; Miss Elizabeth Kirby, Indianapolis; Mrs. Charlotte Burford, Terre Haute; John S. Hussey, Indianapolis, and L. D. Owens, Indianapolis.

Tributes and Eulogies.

Preserved in the memorial book which will be kept from year to year in a specially constructed cabinet in the president's office are tributes and eulogies to the two noted educators written by nationally recognized men both in the teaching profession and other professions. The school feels its debt of gratitude to its benefactors. As one quotation from the book expressed it, "rarely in the world's history has it been found that two such close friends have been permitted to work so long together and to do so great a piece of constructive work."

Among those who have written unstintingly in their praise of the two men whom they count it their good fortune to have known are: President Hines, Everett Sanders, secretary to President Coolidge; Robert J. Aley, president of Butler College; W. A. Mills, president of Hanover College; Bishop Edwin H. Hughes, of Chicago; Lawrence McTurnan, of Indianapolis; William Lowe Bryan, president of Indiana University; Curtis A. Hodges, general manager of The Indianapolis News; E. B. Bryan, president of Ohio University; L. D. Coffin, president of Minnesota University; Charles S. Meek, superintendent of schools of Toledo; J. Howard Wagner, superintendent of schools of Alaska; Charles A. Greathouse, secretary of the board of trustees of the Normal School; Charles F. Miller, state superintendent of schools, and J. F. Thornton, superintendent of the Indianapolis public schools.

Miss Mary Moran, of the English department, wrote the biography of President Parsons which appears in the book and Professor J. B. Wisely wrote that of Dr. Sandison.

Mr. Webb will preside at the dedicatory services, which will begin at 2 p. m. The State Normal School Orchestra will provide the musical numbers under the direction of Professor L. M. Tilson. The Rev. John S. Hussey will pronounce the invocation. President Hines will welcome the alumni and visitors preceding the address of Governor Ed Jackson.

Others who will speak include Charles F. Miller, state superintendent of public instruction; Marcus Dickey, lecturer and biographer of James Whitcomb Riley; President Bryan, of Indiana University; Miss Blanche Merry, state attendance officer, and Herbert Lamb, of the senior class. The Rev. Israel Hatton will pronounce the benediction.

As the chimes ring for the first time Mrs. W. F. Hughes, of the class of 1898, will read a tribute to the school. Sanford M. Keltner, of Anderson, president of the State Normal School board, also will take part in the program.